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# U.S.-British efforts fail to isolate Zimbabwe

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe was inaugurated for a sixth term on June 29 after winning a landslide victory on behalf of the ruling Zimbabwe African Nation Union-Patriotic Front against the opposition Western-backed Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangira.

ZANU-PF, which led the nation to independence along with the now-merged Zimbabwe African People's Union, has been the focus of a well-orchestrated destabilization program carried out by the Britain and the United States. This Western campaign has included economic sanctions as well as an intense international media blitz which seeks to create public opinion against the ruling party in Zimbabwe.

Just six days prior to the June 27 run-off elections, MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai announced that he was pulling out of the poll. The run-off was required because no candidate received 51 percent of the popular vote for president. In the legislative elections, the MDC-T won a slight majority in the lower house of the parliament, while ZANU-PF won a majority in the Senate.

According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, a candidate cannot withdraw from a race if fewer than 21 days remain until the poll. Consequently, Tsvangirai's name still appeared on ballots printed and distributed to polling places throughout the country. The MDC-T leader also told his supporters not to vote in the elections, guaranteeing ZANU-PF a landslide victory.

After President Mugabe was inaugurated on June 29, he immediately flew to Sharm el-Sheik in Egypt to participate in the African Union Summit for 2008. According to Western press agencies such as the British Broadcasting Corporation, the political situation in Zimbabwe was going to overshadow all other issues at the AU Summit. BBC reports were designed to portray Zimbabwe in a negative light and to prompt African leaders to denounce President Mugabe.

At the same time, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Chinese leaders in an effort to pressure them to support sanctions against the ZANU-PF and other efforts aimed at regime change in this southern African nation. Chinese diplomats rejected these efforts and stressed the need for interparty dialogue in Zimbabwe.

In addition to attempts to influence Chinese foreign policy toward Zimbabwe, the U.S. also undertook to draft additional resolutions for consideration at the United Nations Security Council that would further the economic assaults being carried out by the imperialist states against the country.

**African leaders set the agenda**

Despite these efforts, Zimbabwe was never placed on the agenda at the AU Summit. President Mugabe was welcomed

warmly by the other heads of state. He was photographed with all the leaders as a full participant in the organization, which was formed several years ago after the dissolution of its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity.

Some of the agenda items discussed at the AU Summit included: Status of Implementation of the Regional and Continental Agenda for Integration; Appointment of the Members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and Appointment of the Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

A series of reports were also delivered on the following projects: Outcome of the May 2006 Abuja Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, TB and Other Related Infectious Diseases; Status Report on Malaria in Africa; Promotion of Maternal and Child Health in Africa; and the Food Crisis in Africa.

On July 1, the Millennium Development Goals Steering Group was launched, which addressed the fact that: "At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, progress in many African countries is not on track. ... The aim of the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations is to translate existing commitments into tangible progress in every African country."

In a press briefing issued by AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy Dr. Elham Mahmoud A. Ibrahim, he stated: "Most sub-Saharan African countries face a major challenge in trying to realize their development and social obligations because of inadequate access to electricity with about 30 percent of the region's population, and less than 8 percent of rural areas having access to electricity. This situation needs to change if sub-Saharan Africa is to be economically competitive with other developing regions of the world and realize its sustainable development goals."

The July 1 edition of the Zimbabwe Herald reported that the efforts to deflect attention away from the work of the AU by the Western imperialist nations did not work. Although Zimbabwe was mentioned in some of the opening statements at the Summit, it was not from a hostile perspective as anticipated by the West.

AU Commission Chair Jean Ping said that the continent must assist Zimbabwe's political parties to work together to advance the well-being of their country. "I would like, here, to commend the efforts of the leaders of the region (Sadc) and their commitment to assist the Zimbabwean parties in the search for a lasting solution to the problems in that country," said Ping.

According to the Zimbabwe Herald: "At his swearing-in ceremony in Harare on Sunday just before he flew here (Egypt), Cde Mugabe said Government was prepared for dialogue with the opposition MDC-T, but only if it came into the talks with its own agenda and not a Western-foisted stance."

What is important to recognize in the campaign against Zimbabwe by the United States, Britain and EU countries is that

*Continued on page 11*



## Immigrant rights are workers' rights! 6-8

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# Hearing for Puerto Rican activists

Two Puerto Rican independence activists, their family and supporters came to Brooklyn, N.Y., Federal Court June 27 to witness a “motion to quash” the subpoena demanding their presence at an inquisition. About a dozen people marched outside the courthouse as an equal number accompanied Tania Frontera, Christopher Torres and a team of eight lawyers. In a surprise development, the court “sealed” the motion to quash, which means it is now supposed to be heard

in secrecy without the public present in the courtroom, according to a report from Ana Lopez of the Hostos Grand Jury Resistance Coalition. The two activists’ attorneys, Susan Tipograph and Martin Stoler, said that in their 25 years of doing these types of cases, they had never seen a “motion to quash” sealed. The next hearing, this one on the seal order, is set for July 28 at 10:30 a.m.

—Report and photo by John Catalinotto

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Supporter dollars have also helped provide on-the-spot reportage of significant strikes, community struggles or international events like the recent conference in Cuba on the legacy of Karl Marx and challenges of the 21st century. And Supporter funds have helped pay for national and international phone interviews which allow the voices of working and oppressed peoples to speak from its pages.

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There’s yet another way Supporters can invest: by putting Workers World in their will or setting up a planned giving program. We urge all our readers who are financially able to join the WW Supporter Program (see coupon). As you are well aware, the newspaper doesn’t qualify for corporate welfare, solicit grants from the Ford Foundation or clip coupons from Wall Street stocks. Our best resources come from the day-to-day struggle of working and oppressed people. So please invest your hard-earned dollars in Workers World and help build one.

—Sue Davis  
Workers World Supporter Program coordinator

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**National Office**  
55 W. 17 St.,  
New York, NY 10011  
212-627-2994;  
Fax (212) 675-7869  
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
P.O. Box 424,  
Atlanta, GA 30301  
404-627-0185  
atlanta@workers.org

**Baltimore**  
426 E. 31 St.,  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
410-235-7040  
baltimore@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.,  
Boston, MA 02130  
617-983-3835  
Fax (617) 983-3836  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
367 Delaware Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-566-1115  
buffalo@workers.org

**Chicago**  
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138  
Chicago, IL 60606  
773-381-5839  
chicago@workers.org

**Cleveland**  
P.O. Box 5963  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216-531-4004  
cleveland@workers.org

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denver@workers.org

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5920 Second Ave.,  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-831-0750  
detroit@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 595  
Houston, TX 77001-0595  
713-861-5965  
houston@workers.org

**Los Angeles**  
111N. La Brea Ave., #408  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
310-677-8647  
la@workers.org

**Milwaukee**  
milwaukee@workers.org

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 9202,  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
610-931-2615  
phila@workers.org

**Raleigh, N.C.**  
raleigh@workers.org

**Richmond, Va.**  
P.O. Box 14602,  
Richmond, VA 23221  
richmond@workers.org

**Rochester, N.Y.**  
585-436-6458  
rochester@workers.org

**San Diego, Calif.**  
P.O. Box 33447  
San Diego, CA 92163  
619-692-0355

**San Francisco**  
2940 16th St., #207  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-738-4739  
sf@workers.org

**Washington, D.C.**  
P.O. Box 57300,  
Washington, DC 20037,  
dc@workers.org

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**Workers World**  
55 West 17 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10011  
Phone: (212) 627-2994  
Fax: (212) 675-7869  
E-mail: editor@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org

Vol. 50, No. 27 • July 10, 2008  
Closing date: July 2, 2008

Editor: Deirdre Griswold  
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk  
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson  
West Coast Editor: John Parker

Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, David Hoskins, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Minnie Bruce Pratt  
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Internet: Janet Mayes  
Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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# LGBT pride marches continue legacy of Stonewall

By LeiLani Dowell  
New York

Lesbian, gay, bi and trans pride was marked with activities continuing the struggle for LGBT rights from June 27 to 29 in New York City.

The Trans Day of Action for Social and Economic Justice kicked off the weekend. The march was organized by TransJustice of the Audre Lorde Project, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, trans and gender non-conforming people of color center for community organizing. It demanded equal access to employment and educational opportunities; respect and dignity from the Human Resources Administration, the Administration of Children's Services and the Department of Homeless Services; and the end to the U.S. "war on terrorism" and the war on U.S. immigrants; and an end to police violence and the prison/industrial complex that incarcerates so many LGBT people of color.

Despite pouring rain, women-identified people marched militantly through the streets of New York without a permit in the next day's Dyke March. And on June 29, the annual Manhattan pride parade marched past the Stonewall Inn, site of the historic 1969 rebellion against police repression that helped launch the LGBT rights movement in the U.S.



Marching in the parade this year was Governor David Paterson, New York's first African-American governor and the first governor to ever march in this parade. His office issued an order in mid-June directing state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed outside of New York.

An anti-imperialist contingent representing the International Action Center; the youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together; and Workers World Party was well received. Onlookers joined in chants of "NYPD go to hell! We are all Sean Bell!"

## FREE THE JERSEY 4!

One focus of the anti-imperialist contingent on June 29 and a FIST contingent at the June 28 Dyke March was the ongoing struggle to free three of the Jersey 4 political prisoners—young Black lesbians who were given prison sentences of three to 11 years for defending themselves against a violent anti-LGBT attack.

On June 19, Terrain Dandridge's indictment was dismissed and she was released from prison. Renata Hill faces retrial

TransJustice Day of Action, June 27.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

after her conviction was vacated but the indictment upheld. Appeals for Patreese Johnson and Venice Brown are still underway.

A legal expert told Workers World that the lawyers for the Jersey 4 are calling the dismissal of Dandridge's indictment a total vindication and declaration of their innocence, as it is rare that charges are dropped through the appeals process. She cited the use of the so-called gang laws against the Jersey 4, which can be used against any group of three or more people, regardless of whether they are affiliated with a gang. Coupled with the demonization of the Jersey 4 by the corporate media, the attorney said the law was used against them based solely on who they are and their various levels of oppression.

Meanwhile, despite the fact that New York pride marks a rebellion against police brutality, at the end of the June 29 parade, hundreds of young LGBT people were pushed out of the West Village by gangs of cops, some on horseback, who barricaded the entire area, stopping people from eating in restaurants and even getting to their cars.

*Imani Henry contributed to this report.  
E-mail: ldowell@workers.org*

## LGBT & straight protest NY mayor's homeless policies

Members of Picture the Homeless and the Radical Homosexual Agenda joined forces on June 24 for a protest at the Gracie Mansion where billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg was hosting a dinner and reception in honor of LGBT Pride Month. The date of the event was the fourth anniversary of Bloomberg's Five-Year Plan on Homelessness. Protesters chanted, "Homeless people, straight and gay, we need housing right away!"

An e-mail from the Radical Homosexual Agenda posted on progressive LGBT list-serve describes Bloomberg's program: "In 2004, he had promised that his policies of privatization would drastically reduce homelessness in New York City within five years. But on this, the four-year mark of his program, the number of homeless people remains extremely high.... In fact, shelters are so full—approximately 34,000 people a night at last count—they're turning people away....

"Mayor Bloomberg could learn a lot from Picture the Homeless if he sat down to talk with them. Recently, PTH worked with Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer to conduct a survey of the city—they found that there are more than enough empty buildings to house each and every homeless person in New York. PTH advocates not only opening these buildings for housing, but also shifting Department of Homeless Service budgets from shelters to rent assistance."

Despite the event being billed as an LGBT pride reception, RHA reports their queer delegates were turned away from Gracie Mansion when they attempted to attend the dinner. They urge people to get involved by visiting [www.picturethehomeless.org](http://www.picturethehomeless.org) or [www.homelessyouthservices.org](http://www.homelessyouthservices.org), a Web site listing services for homeless LGBT youth.

—LeiLani Dowell



Gay Pride march, June 29.

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

## Free 'Chip' Fitzgerald Support grows for political prisoner

By Judy Greenspan  
San Francisco

The U.S. war against the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, directed by the FBI through its infamous Cointelpro program, is alive and well today. Former Black Panther Party members remain in jail on trumped-up charges from California to Louisiana. On July 2, Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, in prison for over 38 years and the longest-held BPP member, goes before the California parole board.

In 1968, Bobby Hutton, the 17-year-old National Treasurer and BPP leader, was shot and killed by the Oakland police. Then on January 17, 1969, John Huggins and Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, two leaders of the Southern Chapter of the BPP, were murdered. Later that year, then-FBI-head J. Edgar Hoover issued his famous statement calling the Black Panther Party "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country."

Fitzgerald was involved in a shootout with Los Angeles police and was wounded in the head. For defending himself against a police attack, he was later arrested and charged with assault on the police and

the murder of a security guard. He was convicted and originally sentenced to death, which was later commuted to life imprisonment.

California, with its massive prison population and equally massive prison construction policies, is in the forefront of this country's racist railroading of Black, Latin@, Native American and poor white people into prisons and jails. In May 2007, Fitzgerald issued an eloquent statement documenting the inhumane warehousing of human beings "in concrete and steel bunkers that destroy human sensibilities and the human spirit."

Despite nearly 39 years behind bars, Fitzgerald states unequivocally, "I remain a revolutionary!" He calls upon "progressive and revolutionary people [to] rise up and seize the day!" He knows that the parole board is racist and law-enforcement-oriented, filled with ex-prosecutors and retired sheriffs. However, he maintains hope that political action for his release and against the expanding prison system can make an impact.

Just one year ago, Fitzgerald was transferred to Centinela State Prison near the

*Continued on page 5*

## Activists, families rally for prisoner rights

On June 21, the Cleveland Lucasville 5 Defense Committee and LOOP (Loved Ones Of Prisoners) held another in a series of protest rallies at Ohio State Penitentiary, the supermax prison where most of Ohio's nearly 200 death-sentenced prisoners are held. Family members, friends and supporters gathered to raise the demands: "No more executions! Contact visits for death-sentenced prisoners—a hug should be a human right!"

The spirit of the crowd was lifted with songs, prayers and reminders of the progress the campaigns are starting to make. One of the Lucasville-uprising prisoners had a contact visit with his mother over Mother's Day weekend, and was able to hug



Speaker Theresa Lyons of LOOP whose grandson is on death row.

her for the first time in 15 years. Names of beloved prisoners, including Mumia Abu-Jamal, were written on balloons of all colors, which were then released into the air with powerful thoughts of freedom for them all.

—Report and photo Sharon Danaan



## Health care in crisis, part 3

# Single-payer reform as an immediate demand

By David Hoskins

On June 19, thousands of activists rallied in San Francisco and New York City to demand a universal single-payer health system. The protests were called by labor unions, progressive physicians' groups and allied community organizations in response to the deepening health-care crisis facing workers in this country.

Single-payer is a system of national health insurance that organizes health financing through a single public agency. Single-payer care removes private insurance companies as arbiters of who does and does not receive adequate care. A 2003 proposal by the Physicians' Working Group for Single-Payer National Health Insurance published in the Journal of the American Medical Association claims that a single-payer program would save at least \$200 billion annually by eliminating high profits as well as the marketing and overhead costs associated with the private insurance industry.

Single-payer health insurance is currently utilized by Canada, Japan, Australia and many western European countries. The disparity in the quality and accessibility of health care between those countries that have single-payer insurance and the United States is glaring. Physicians for a National Health Program estimates that the United States spends more than twice

as much as most other industrialized capitalist countries on health care. Yet despite spending \$7,129 per capita, the United States underperforms on major health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates.

Most supporters of single-payer insurance have endorsed the United States National Health Insurance Act (H.R. 676). The bill is popularly known as "Medicare for All." The bill has 88 congressional cosponsors and a slew of labor endorsements from 308 union organizations in 44 states, including 22 state AFL-CIO affiliates. Some of the international labor unions that have endorsed include the Electrical Workers, California Nurses Association, Auto Workers and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

### Step forward but not enough

H.R. 676 is a progressive piece of legislation, and its passage would represent a big victory for workers and the oppressed. Every person living or visiting the United States is eligible for coverage under the act. The proposed program covers most medically necessary services including primary care, emergency care, prescription drugs, mental health services and long-term care. Dental and eye care, inpatient and outpatient care, and durable medical equipment are covered by the act as well. The patient is not charged any

co-pays or deductibles, and private insurers are prohibited from selling any coverage that duplicates the benefits covered by the act.

Labor organizations and community activists are right to rally around the passage of this legislation as a genuine reform of the U.S. capitalist health care system. H.R. 676 represents a substantial improvement over anything the Democratic or Republican presidential candidates are proposing as solutions to the current health-care crisis.

Despite its progressive nature, however, H.R. 676 is not a cure-all for everything that ails the U.S. health-care system. Single-payer leaves the actual provision of care in the hands of mostly private doctors, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies. It is true that single-payer care will reduce costs by using its economy of scale to bargain for lower reimbursements for care and prescription drugs. But it is also true that the fundamental reason private insurance is so expensive is because of private providers and pharmaceutical companies.

According to Families USA, the top seven U.S.-based pharmaceutical companies brought in \$190 billion in 2005 revenue. A 2002 study titled "Profiting from Pain: Where Prescription Drug Dollars Go" found that 27 percent of drug company revenues was spent on marketing

and advertising. Eighteen percent went to corporate profit, and just 11 percent was spent on the research and development necessary to find new cures.

Private hospitals are similarly wasteful and consume far more dollars than is necessary to provide quality care to patients. A 1993 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that private for-profit hospitals incur administrative costs at a rate that is \$857 higher per discharged patient than public hospitals, despite the fact that public hospitals disproportionately care for more uninsured at-risk patients.

While single-payer insurance would fix some of the most glaring problems in the U.S. health-care system, the inefficiencies of private delivery of care could prove a significant strain on the public insurance system. The exorbitant profits and marketing costs associated with big pharmaceutical companies and private hospitals would unnecessarily tax health-care allocations and provide fodder for right-wing attempts to undermine the system. Single-payer insurance represents an immediate and progressive working class demand, but what workers really deserve is a humane system of health care that entirely removes the profit motive out of the equation from financing to delivery.

*Next: Socialized medicine: the health-care revolution workers deserve.*

## Rank-and-file unionists refuse to be bullied

By Frank Neisser  
Boston

Representatives of First Student Inc. arrived at the United Steelworkers Local 8751 union hall June 30 in Boston accompanied by the mayor's own labor relations point person. They were there to present their "final offer," filled with concession demands, for a new contract with the School Bus Drivers Union.

These negotiators immediately found themselves surrounded by dozens of militant rank-and-file union activists. The drivers were there for the second shift strike captains orientation and training,

and they made it very clear just how ready this union is to strike, if necessary.

The militants stayed for the negotiating session. In the end, many of the concessions demanded in the company's "final" offer were taken off the table, and additional follow-up negotiating sessions were agreed to. The union remains committed to its "No Cuts, No Concessions" position.

The existing labor contract between First Student and Local 8751 expired before midnight on June 30. The union proposed a limited extension: "In the interest of concluding a fair and just Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and allowing ample time and opportunity for serious

joint efforts to resolve all remaining areas of dispute. The intent is to allow time to reach an agreement prior to the 'start up' of the 2008-2009 school year and spare the tremendous hardship to the students and parents of Boston, as well as the significant costs to the parties, financial and otherwise, associated with a strike. This extension agreement would include a pact for retroactivity to July 1, 2008, for the new CBA, including but not limited to wages, benefits, terms and conditions, as well as other issues of interest to the parties."

The organic unity of this union with the community was boldly demonstrated over this past weekend when TouchFM 106.1,

with USW Local 8751 President Frantz Mendes, Negotiating Committee Chair Steve Kirschbaum, Chief Shop Steward Andre Francois, and rank-and-file leader James "Scottie" Pina, who set up the show.

MC Spice opened the show, saying, "Did you know that a British corporation called First Student just got a \$343 million no-bid sweetheart vendor contract with the Boston Schools, with an additional \$6 million signing bonus? Did you know that they just monopolized the transportation in the U.S., buying out their chief competition Laidlaw and Greyhound? And that they are trying to break the School Bus Drivers Union, making demands for big concessions in labor contract negotiations? The School Bus Drivers are calling for strike. I'm down with that! I'll change my middle name to 'strike!' First Group's profits are up 39 percent since last year as a result of monopolizing the industry."

The union is asking for supporters to call Mayor Tom Menino at 617-635-4500; School Superintendent Carol Johnson at 617-635-9050; School Transportation Director Rich Jacobs at 617-635-9520; and First Student Vice-President Bob Timilty at 617-532-2500 to demand that the company negotiate in good faith and stop holding the parents, students and community hostage to corporate greed. □



"Fabric of the Community," a radio show based in the African-American community, conducted a one-and-a-half-hour interview/call-in show

WW PHOTO

USW Local 8751 rank-and-file, June 30.



## West, Southwest activists host Cuba caravan

Special to Workers World

During late June, the 19th Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba rolled through the Southwestern U.S.

A celebration was held June 25 at the World Beat Center in San Diego's Balboa Park. The San Diego Friends of Cuba raised

Betty Fry in San Diego.

WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

funds to buy a bus, which they dedicated to long-time local activists Betty Fry and the late Chuck Drury. The bus, bedecked with bold slogans like "Free the Cuban Five" and "Break the U.S. Blockade of Cuba," will carry vital supplies to Cuba.

The caravan arrived in Houston on June 28 at MECA, a Latino cultural arts center. Caravanistas were welcomed by lively music from Mariachi MECA, followed by dance and drumming by the Impilo South African Dance Group.

After a welcoming dinner, the travelers introduced themselves and discussed how the next caravan would occur during celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Four members of Houston's Cuba Solidarity Committee pledged to go on the next trip. The Caravanistas and their hosts then loaded 100 boxes of medical aid, squeezing it into every available spare inch of the bus.

*Kathy Hughart and Gloria Rubac contributed to this article.*

# High court slashes Exxon Valdez fine

By Kathy Durkin

Exxon Mobil has good friends on the U.S. Supreme Court. This was evident on June 25. That's when the high court justices handed the oil giant a big victory as they voted 5-3 to reduce the punitive damages' award it had to pay in the Exxon Valdez lawsuit.

Five justices cut the oil giant's punitive damages to \$507 million from a lower court's award of \$2.5 billion. The lower amount is a drop in the bucket for Exxon Mobil Corporation, the world's most profitable corporation, which made a record-breaking \$40 billion in profits in 2007. These profits were garnered by charging the highest price on record for barrels of oil and by gouging consumers worldwide with exorbitant fuel prices.

The oil conglomerate could easily cover the high court's damage award with four-and-one-half days of earnings from profits. (That's only \$107 million more than former Exxon Mobil Chairman Lee Raymond's retirement package in 2006!)

For nearly 20 years, 32,677 plaintiffs—fishers and Indigenous community members, among others—were joined together in a class-action lawsuit to gain justice for the economic injuries they suffered in the worst oil spill in U.S. history and

to hold the oil corporation accountable. They were outraged and devastated by the court's ruling, which will give them each on average \$15,000—much lower than the losses many suffered and one-fifth of what they would have received under the \$2.5 billion award. Six thousand plaintiffs died waiting for the settlement.

The history of this case is rife with capitalist greed, corporate wrongdoing and refusal to take responsibility, and complicity by the courts.

The notorious disaster occurred on March 24, 1989, when the oil tanker Exxon Valdez hit Bligh Reef, off the Alaskan coastline, spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil into the waters of Prince William Sound and polluting 1,200 miles of Alaska's seacoast. Within five months, the oil had spread, covering 10,000 square miles of water; it is still all over the beaches.

This environmental disaster impacted thousands of people who earn their living from the sea; many people lost everything they had. Coastal Indigenous subsistence communities were harmed; many couldn't hunt and gather on beaches for years afterwards. Monumental and lasting damage was done to the ecosystem.

Untold numbers of fish and other animals, including 500,000 birds and 4,500 sea otters, were killed.

Plaintiffs were awarded \$287 million in compensatory or actual damages and \$5 billion in punitive damages by an Alaska jury in 1994. Exxon Mobil appealed. A higher court cut the damages to \$4 billion. The oil titans refused that settlement and appealed again. In 2006, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court cut punitive damages to \$2.5 billion.

Driven by insatiable greed and with callous disregard for those affected by the disaster, Exxon Mobil appealed again, this time to their allies on the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to eradicate all punitive damages. They were royally rewarded when the high court rolled back the damages award.

Showing unbridled greed, the oil giant even maneuvered to get 11 percent of the \$507 million award given to them! (Anchorage Daily News, June 26)

Big business applauded the Supreme Court's ruling. It set a legal precedent which can have far-reaching ramifications: The majority invented a rule that limits punitive damages against corporations

in maritime cases to equal compensatory damages—\$507 million in this case.

Dissenting Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Paul Stevens said the court should not legislate rules limiting punitive damages to those of compensatory damages. (Justice Samuel Alito did not vote because he owns Exxon stock.)

Environmental and other progressive activists and attorneys fear this judgment will be used as precedent—to stop or limit lawsuits seeking to penalize and prevent any corporate wrongdoing and to give the go-ahead to corporate plunder of the earth with impunity.

The decision also strikes a blow against jury-awarded settlements. At every level, the courts sided with Exxon Mobil. That shows U.S. courts are not neutral arbitrators of class and political conflict, but a part of the state apparatus which intervenes solidly on the side of the capitalist class to protect private property.

The courts cannot be relied on to provide justice on issues like environmental destruction—nor on any issue. Only militant mass movements and people's struggles will push them to make decent decisions and help restrain the corporations.

The capitalist class has no regard for protecting the environment or anything on the planet, including all life that inhabits it. Ravaging the earth is endemic within their system. Everything is about the insatiable drive for expansion and ever-greater profits. Nothing is sacrosanct except the almighty dollar—or billions of dollars.

Yet there is a system that makes respect for the planet and its residents the top priority; that is socialism.

Sources for this article include *The Anchorage Daily News* and *ExxposeExxon.com*.

## UTAH PHILLIPS

# Working-class singer, labor activist

By Dustin Langley

Bruce "Utah" Duncan Phillips, a labor organizer, Grammy-nominated folk singer and storyteller, died of heart failure in his Nevada City, Calif., home on May 23.

Phillips first rose to prominence with the album "Good Though!" which included the single "Moose Turd Pie," which told about serving moose feces to fellow workers when Utah worked as a cook on a railroad crew.

His career spanned four decades, with recent work including a collaboration with Ani DiFranco on the 1999 album "Fellow Workers," a Grammy nominee for best contemporary folk album. Leaving behind a rich working-class musical tradition, his songs have also been recorded by Emmylou Harris and Tom Waits.

The son of labor activists, Phillips was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1935. He served in the Army during the Korean War, an event that he later said was a turning point in his life. He said, "Being a soldier in Korea taught me that I will never again do what I'm told. I almost lost my moral compass. I had to fight like hell to get it back."

After witnessing the horrors of war, he returned to the U.S., where he rode the rails, eventually finding his way to Salt Lake City, Utah. He wound up at the Joe

Hill House, a homeless shelter operated by Ammon Hennacy, an anarchist and member of the Catholic Worker movement. Hennacy helped provide him with a political framework that later shaped his music and storytelling.

Phillips took a job in the 1960's as an archivist, where he learned the methods of historical research, a skill that he would later apply to his songwriting. Brad Wrenn, who co-produced "The Ballad of Joe Hill," said of Phillips' music, "He's such an incredible source of knowledge that doesn't get catalogued in the United States, stuff that doesn't get taught in history classes—the story of the underclass."

In 1968, he ran for the U.S. Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. Following his loss to the Republican candidate, he also lost his job with the State of Utah, in what he described as "blacklisting."

In 1973, with "Moose Turd Pie" receiving extensive airplay, Phillips began a career in music and storytelling that took him to cities throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He became a legend on the folk music circuit.

His performing partner Rosalie Sorrels said: "He was like an alchemist. He took the stories of working people and railroad

bums and he built them into work that was influenced by writers like Thomas Wolfe, but then he gave it back, he put it in language so the people whom the songs and stories were about still had them, still owned them."

A card-carrying member of the Industrial Workers of the World ("the Wobblies"), Phillips sang songs about the struggles of the working class, the homeless, and the poor.

Phillips, also a member of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, the Traveling Musician's Union-AFM Local 1000 and Veterans for Peace, never voted. His son, Duncan, said: "He said he cast a vote every day he went out in the world and did something. If you want to make change, go out and actually do it yourself. He didn't need to hand over any responsibility to politicians who aren't beholden to the working class."

For the last 21 years of his life, Phillips resided in Nevada City, where he helped start the Hospitality House, a local homeless shelter, and the Peace and Justice Center. On March 20, 2003, he was arrested, along with his partner Joanna Robinson and 40 others, for blocking a road and unlawful assembly as a protest against the U.S. invasion of Iraq. □

## Free 'Chip' Fitzgerald

Continued from page 3

Mexican border. Despite this attempt to isolate him, Fitzgerald and his defense committee have been actively organizing to support his upcoming parole effort. The Committee to Free Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald has sponsored an online petition, organized rallies and written news articles for progressive publications around the state. For more information contact the Committee to Free Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald at [freechipfitzgerald@yahoo.com](mailto:freechipfitzgerald@yahoo.com) or [freechip.org](http://freechip.org). You can also sign the petition to free him at [www.freechip.org](http://www.freechip.org). □

# Author's book confirms framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Author Patrick J. O'Connor appeared at the Brecht Forum in New York City June 24 to promote his newly published book, "The Framing of Mumia Abu-Jamal." Abu-Jamal, the world's most prominent death row political prisoner, was falsely convicted of killing a white police officer in December 1981 in Philadelphia.

Abu-Jamal has faced two death warrants and has been on Pennsylvania's death row since July 1982. His lawyers are attempting to win him a new trial, through the appeals process, to allow suppressed evidence to come out to prove his innocence.

O'Connor's book brings to light a racist



From left to right: Patrick J. O'Connor, Pam Africa and Ramona Africa.

conspiracy by the Philadelphia police and the judicial system to silence Abu-Jamal's voice because he has spoken out against police brutality and all forms of injustice. Appearing at the book signing with

O'Connor were MOVE leader Ramona Africa and Pam Africa, national coordinator of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

—Monica Moorehead



## FIST discussion group tackles the economic crisis

The youth group FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—held an engaging discussion group focusing on the economic crisis on June 26 in New York. Questions raised at the meeting included: What stage of overproduction are we now in? What is speculation? How does it factor into the economic crisis? How did the working class respond to the Great Depression? What is the fundamental contradiction in capitalism? What do we do about all this?

FIST is facilitating a weekly discussion group on a wide range of issues. Future meetings will address the struggle in Africa on July 11 and LGBT oppression on July 14. Discussions begin at 6 p.m. To get involved, email [FIST@workers.org](mailto:FIST@workers.org) or call 212-627-2994.

—LeiLani Dowell



# Outraged community protest

## Women workers rounded up in ICE raid

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

With helicopters whirring overhead and Houston police providing perimeter security, 150 to 200 federal agents raided Action Rags USA, a rag-exporting factory, at 7 a.m. on June 25 and led 166 people away in Homeland Security vans. The federal agents in body armor stalked around the work site questioning workers.

The vast majority taken into custody were immigrant women workers from Latin America. Four were taken for medical treatment, including one life-flighted to a local hospital after she fell 20 feet off a stack of wooden pallets.

When the raid began, workers began calling their families to inform them of what happened. Many families came to the plant and gathered outside the main entrance. Bernardo Olvera went to see about his sister. "The people here are just working. They're not doing anything wrong. These workers are hard workers, they are not criminals," Olvera said.

Within hours of the raid, Houston activists began to mobilize to protest the roundup. The next morning at 10:00 a.m., close to 100 people demonstrated outside the Federal Building in downtown Houston on a workday, demanding that families be kept together and immigrants be treated with dignity and respect. A large number were members of the Service Employees Union, Houston Interfaith Workers



Houston protest against ICE raids, June 28.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Justice and America Para Todos.

After a press conference, protesters marched around the block several times. The Free Radicals Marching Band accompanied chants of "Aquí estamos y no nos vamos" and "The people united will never be defeated."

"Are we safer today following the ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] roundup that picked up over 150 women immigrants yesterday?" asked Maria Jimenez, who has worked in support of immigrant rights for decades. "These women were working to support their children."

Cesar Espinosa, community outreach coordinator for CRECEN, the Central

American Resource Center, spoke to the crowd: "Today is a success because with this action we are able to show Houston and ICE that we will not stay quiet in the midst of all these raids which are splitting up families and leaving children without mothers. There will be many more actions like this, and as always I thank all of you who came out today in the fight for social justice. Whether there are 10 or 100 people present, we must never stay quiet and we must always say that there are those Houstonians like us who will continue to fight for justice. As long as there is life there is hope!"

Several women holding small children addressed the crowd. They explained that

families are forced to come to the U.S. to find the jobs which have disappeared from their own countries, and families working here should not be separated.

Another demonstration was held on June 28 outside the immigration detention facility where those arrested were being held. This facility is owned by Corrections Corporation of America, and was the first private prison in the United States. During an open-mike session, dozens spoke of their support for the immigrants, including representatives of CRECEN, International Action Center, International Socialist Organization, Socialist Workers Party, Houston Peace and Justice Center and the Catholic Church. One woman spoke of her husband who has been in the detention center for over a year.

Teodoro Aguiluz, director of CRECEN, held his daughter in his arms as he addressed the crowd in Spanish. He denounced the government lies that immigrants are causing financial problems in the U.S. "We contribute to the welfare of this country. We pay taxes, we raise our families, and we are not a burden to anyone. We will not allow the government to separate families and scapegoat the immigrants."

This was the second raid in Houston in as many months, and this one featured an often unnoticed face of immigration—the large number of women entering the U.S. to work here.

*Continued on page 10*

## Alejandro Abarca

# Day laborer organizer 'served the people'

By Heather Cottin

Alejandro Abarca, leader of day laborers in New Jersey, died last week in Mexico. His death at the young age of 32 marked the untimely end of a life devoted to the struggle of the oppressed.

Like millions of Mexicans, Alejandro Abarca was forced to migrate to the United States. He settled in the Borough of Freehold, New Jersey, where a sizable number of Mexican workers tried to survive as day laborers. Abarca immediately embroiled himself in working for the dignity and rights of Freehold's Mexican workers. Most of them had been forced from their homeland by the North American Free Trade Agreement. Based on the greedy profit motive of U.S. transnational corporations, NAFTA effectively drove the Mexican farms out of business. Some of these families moved to Freehold to work and to live in peace.

But there was no peace. Abarca said, Freehold "officials did not show any respect" for the immigrant population. He said officials profiled all Latin@s, "assuming that all dark-skinned Latin@ people are in the United States illegally." (New Jersey News) So he organized the Workers Committee for Progress and Social Welfare, which called for an immediate end to harassment and intimidation and for the right to be respected. (NJ News)

Abarca became a leader of Casa Freehold, which was organized to defend the rights of Latin@s in their homes, at work and in the streets. He devoted his life to a simple concept: "Serve the people."

For Latin@s, life in Freehold was difficult. The Borough of Freehold was settled by the English in 1683 who stole the land from the Lenne Lenape tribe. Descendants of the original settlers show open racism against residents speaking Spanish

at Borough of Freehold town meetings. Representing 30 percent of Freehold's population, the Latin@ community has faced official harassment in their homes, in the schools and in their freedom to assemble.

When men, seeking work as day laborers, gathered at a "muster zone" on a road outside the main part of town, local police hounded them. To defend the workers' rights, Abarca organized with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Foundation, National Day Laborers Organizing Network, International Action Center and the Workers Committee for Progress and Social Welfare. The PRLDEF won the case guaranteeing the right of Freehold day laborers to seek work in public places.

Cognizant of the difficulty Mexicans have in establishing bank accounts and other financial and legal activities, Abarca brought the Mexican Consulate from New York to Freehold to issue "matricula consular" identity papers to hundreds of people in the borough. (Asbury Park Press) Organizing with his community for his community, Abarca also spearheaded a struggle to win day laborers \$10 an hour for their work. In 2006, when the national May 1 organizing began, Abarca brought the Freehold workers into the national struggle for immigrant and workers rights.

Speaking at a 2005 anti-Iraq war rally in New York, he said, "In Latin America, we understand occupation, and we know that the transnational monopolies have been occupying us for years, but the moment is coming when the people will tolerate this occupation no longer." (La Ventana, March 21, 2005)

One year ago he suffered a severe accident and returned to his native country to undergo a series of operations. "Probably he died of complications from one of these operations," said Rita Dentino,

who worked with him. "Alejandro made Casa Freehold into a broader organization against the war, against racism, for women's reproductive rights. His life was dedicated to social justice."

Alejandro Abarca Presente! □

Black/Brown unity in action: Abarca (right) with Rev. Andre McGuire who offered his church as a safe haven for day laborers in Freehold in 2003.



## Students of color unite to defend ethnic studies

By Paul Teitelbaum  
Tucson, Ariz.

The Arizona State Senate has introduced legislation aimed at destroying all ethnic studies programs in Arizona public schools. The legislation, Senate Bill 1108, would ban African American, Pan-Asian, Native American and Mexican-American/Raza studies.

It would also forbid the formation of ethnic or cultural student organizations such as MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán). This racist bill would deny funding to any elementary school, high school, university or community college that includes any courses or activities that "encourage dissent from the values of American democracy and western civilization."

On June 12, Arizona State Superintendent of Schools Tom Horne held a press conference outside Tucson Unified School District where he endorsed this blatant racism. He was met by 250 angry students, parents and community members, who shouted down his racist remarks and

voiced their support for the ethnic studies programs.

Students from Tucson's high schools, community college and university have formed an alliance called PRE (Positive Representation in Education) to organize in defense of ethnic studies programs and students' right to learn the history of their own peoples.

One of PRE's first steps was to create a Unity Council with representatives from Latin@, Black, Asian and Indigenous student groups. The Unity Council will initiate community events to build the organization and forge alliances with the immigrant rights, anti-war and other progressive forces.

Already, local activists are feeling inspired by the enthusiasm and determination of these youths. Horne has unleashed the outrage of oppressed youths and set in motion a force that the ruling class he speaks for fears the most: unity of the communities of color.

A short movie about the Tucson Ethnic Studies program entitled "Mi Otro Yo" can be seen at wgbh.org. □



## A challenge to imperialist greed

# Migrant workers, activists form global alliance

By Teresa Gutierrez  
Hong Kong SAR, China

“For a long time, others have spoken on our behalf. Now we speak for ourselves.”

This clarion call was the crux of the founding assembly of the International Migrant Alliance that took place in Hong Kong from June 14 to 17.

Attendees at the conference came from all corners of the globe. One hundred and sixty-seven delegates representing 118 organizations from 25 countries participated in this founding assembly of the first international formation of grassroots migrants.

The overall number of people in attendance at this historic conference was over 300, an impressive figure when legal and economic restrictions are considered.

Some countries or regions represented included Taiwan, Kenya, Korea, Japan, Bangladesh, Australia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Mexico, Canada and the U.S. A large delegation came from the Philippines as well as from Filipino migrants living in other nations.

The assembly noted that more organizations which are founding members were unable to attend due to visa and financial issues.

The founding assembly of the IMA was an idea that had been years in the making. The goal was to address and organize around the crisis of millions of workers who are forced to migrate—forced to leave their countries as a result of neoliberal policies imposed by the World Trade Organization and the World Bank as well as the practices of U.S. imperialism. The Alliance has as its premise an anti-imperialist view on migration and workers issues.

The International Organization for Migration estimates that there were about 191 million migrants in the world as of 2005. About 40 million of those were undocumented.

The Philippines alone is a major exporter of human beings, a country so besieged by neocolonialism and imperialist domination that every day 3,000 people are forced to leave their homeland. The 3,000 are just those who went through the so-called legal channel and do not include Filipinos who leave the country without



Eni Lestari, the newly-elected chairperson of the IMA.

tourist or business visas.

It is of great importance that this conference occurred in the Asian region.

According to the Global Commission on International Migration, as of 2000, there were 49.9 million migrants in Asia, accounting for 1.4 percent of Asia's population. This figure is, of course, low and outdated as there has been an explosion of forced migration in more recent years.

Asian countries with a high concentration of migrants are Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore and Taiwan. If you include west Asia or the Middle East, particularly the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have a high concentration of migrant workers as well.

The conference presented a well-thought-out and high-level analysis of conditions of migrants and policies that force migration.

Some of the statements issued from the conference include: “The time for the voice of the grassroots migrants has come with the resounding success of the International Migrants Alliance founding assembly.”

“In the spirit of international solidarity, the participants shared each other's experiences, learned from each other's actions, debated and reached unities that shall propel the IMA in its future programs.”

“With the approval of the IMA Constitution, the election of its leadership and first set of officers and the approval of the General Program of Action, the IMA was finally born,” declared the founders.

### “United we shall break the chains of globalization”

One of the highlights of the conference was the opening day, which took place at the City University of Hong Kong and was co-organized by the Women Empowerment in Moslem Context of the Southeast Asia Research Center (WEMC-SEARC).

It was held on a Sunday so the program was attended by more than 350 migrants, including about 200 foreign workers—mostly domestic workers—from Hong Kong.

A video showed the situation that migrants face and why building the IMA is so important. The crowd was visibly moved by this video as it reminded everyone about the brutal and merciless conditions migrants face every day around the world.

The conference, for example, condemned sexual trafficking and took note of the special oppression of women migrants.

On the final day of the conference, elections were held. To lead the IMA, members of the International Coordinating Body were chosen by the different global regions as well as elected at-large.

These 17 members comprise the newly constituted ICB of the IMA. The ICB then elected officers of the executive committee among themselves.

Elected members of the executive committee are Eni Lestari of AMCB-HK, chairperson; Ufuk Berdan of ATIK-Europe, vice chairperson; Connie Bragas-Regalado of Migrante-Philippines, secretary-general; Tess Tesalona of Immigrant Workers Center in Canada, treasurer; as well as this writer.

The woman elected chairperson of IMA shows that the Alliance is indeed committed to having migrants in leadership. Eni Lestari, from the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body—based in Hong Kong—is a 27-year-old domestic worker from Indonesia. She has been a leader of AMCB for a long time.

In her presentation to the conference, Eni declared, “Our Assembly today creates a significant mark in the history of our movement. Although our Assembly is mainly an organizational one, it is also very educational. Just see the program and the topics to discuss and one will immediately understand that the people who will be attending this confer-

ence are really migrants, immigrants and refugees and their very reliable advocates who are truly after our rights, welfare and empowerment.

“Though we understand these topics and issues for they are part and parcel of our everyday life, this assembly transformed it from being scattered knowledge to a collective one. And after this assembly, this collective understanding will become a moving force to strengthen and expand our movement, our Alliance, nationally and internationally.”

The conference and the formation of IMA bode well for the class struggle. The IMA is yet another sign of what is on the horizon. Workers who are experiencing the most brutal conditions of all are rising. They are organizing and they are fighting back.

And the IMA shows that these most oppressed workers are extremely class conscious. A revolutionary force is stirring in Asia, including the Philippines, South Korea, etc. It is a force that is in solidarity with others from the oppressed world.

For example, when a Kenyan woman, Sister Wahu Kaara—the only representative from Africa at the conference—was introduced, there was significant applause for her.

When the brother from Oaxaca, Mexico, spoke and so much solidarity was expressed toward him, it was so clear how much this body wanted to build bridges and make connections with these struggles.

The conference organizers recognized the tremendous work ahead, especially that of uniting with migrants from Africa and Latin America.

But the political will to unite with others is there. The foundation has been set.

The goal of uniting migrants around the world is to defeat imperialism and to build the kind of society where no worker is forced to leave his or her homeland. A world with no borders or exploitation has become just a little bit more of a reality with the founding of IMA.

*Gutierrez was elected at this conference to the International Migrant Alliance executive committee as deputy secretary-general on behalf of the organization she was representing, the May 1st Coalition for Immigrant and Worker Rights in the USA.*

## Latin@ immigrants in the U.S.

*The following paper was presented to the International Migrant Alliance conference in Hong Kong on June 15 by Teresa Gutierrez.*

“Someday the U.S. will recognize the true cost of its war on immigrants. We don't mean in dollars, though those are squandered by the billions. The true cost is to the national identity: the sense of who we are and what we value. It will hit us once the enforcement fever breaks, when we look at what has been done and no longer recognize the country that did it. A nation of immigrants is holding another nation of immigrants in bondage, exploiting its labor while ignoring its suffering, condemning lawlessness while sealing off a path to living lawfully.”

These are not my words. This is from a June 3 editorial in the New York Times. In fact, there is much in this statement that is wrong. The U.S. is not simply a nation of immigrants. It is a nation where

Africans were brought in chains in one of the most genocidal crimes ever. It is a stolen nation, stolen from the Native and Mexican peoples. But I use the editorial because it demonstrates the appalling, inhumane, illegal and racist war that the U.S. government is carrying out right now against immigrants.

This war is so grave that even a mouthpiece for the bourgeoisie such as the New York Times has condemned it, not just once but several times. Even they think that the Bush administration and elements in the ruling class have gone too far.

My assignment today is to highlight in a few words the situation of Latin@ immigrants who are the largest number of undocumented in the U.S. today. But much of what is happening to Latin@s is also happening to the migrants who come to the U.S. from every corner of the globe.

The genesis of this current war is the 2006 Sensenbrenner Bill, which attempt-



Teresa Gutierrez speaking at IMA conference.

ed to penalize and criminalize immigrants like never before.

But shortly before Sensenbrenner, a noted bourgeois scholar from Harvard, Samuel Huntington, wrote a piece in 2004 that was a signal of what was to come. It was an example of the ideological framework being set in preparation for this war. The right wing would soon take hold of the immigration debate and become the driving force in setting policy. Not just in

Washington but on the airwaves, in the news and in the press.

Huntington's piece was printed in Foreign Policy, a magazine published by the Carnegie Endowment. The front cover promoted: “Samuel Huntington on how Hispanic immigrants threaten America's identity, values and way of life.” Huntington's entire premise was that the multitude of immigrants coming to the

*Continued on page 9*

# ILPS vows struggle against imperialist war and plunder

By Bill Cecil  
Hong Kong SAR, China

From Manila and Montreal, Tamil Nadu and Taiwan, New York and New South Wales, 265 delegates came to Hong Kong June 18-20 for the Third International Assembly of the International League of Peoples' Struggle. The ILPS was founded in 2002, when the Bush regime was launching its so-called "war on terror."

The delegates were domestic workers and doctors, farmers and factory workers, Kenyan debt-relief activists, Dalit women from South India, Australian building trades unionists, Turkish and Kurdish migrant workers from Europe. All told, they represented 165 mass organizations from 30 countries.

The largest number came from the Philippines where many groups are in struggle against the U.S.-backed regime of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. They included the May First Labor Movement (KMU), Philippine Peasant Movement, Federation of Peasant Women, Alliance of Health Workers, National Union of People's Lawyers, League of Filipino Students, Suara Bansang Moro representing Muslim people of Mindanao, and the Cordillera People's Alliance comprising Indigenous people from northern Luzon resisting the devastation of their mountains by transnational mining firms. They are united in Bayan, the New Patriotic Alliance.

The second-largest participation came from Hong Kong itself, most of them migrant domestic workers from the Philippines and Indonesia and migrant rights activists.

Groups from the United States included Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the Mexicano/Chicano organization Maiz, International Action Center, Chelsea Uniting Against the War from Massachusetts, North Carolina Labor Against the War and Video Collision Course from the Bay Area.

The theme of the assembly was, "Strengthen the peoples' struggle, unite to build a new world against imperialist aggression, state terrorism, plunder and social destruction!" A major theme of discussion was the world capitalist economic crisis and the need for global unity of workers and oppressed people to fight its effects.

The assembly was opened by Philippine revolutionary leader Jose Maria Sison, who chairs the ILPS. Sison, who was imprisoned for 14 years by the Marcos dictatorship, is in exile in the Netherlands. Unable to be present physically, he was able to attend and speak via tele screen.

The conference was saddened by the loss of two members of the ILPS International Coordinating Committee. Philippine labor leader and congressperson Crispin Beltran—known as Ka Bel—died in May in a tragic accident. Dr. Ahmad Maslamani of the Union of People's Health Committees in Palestine passed away in January. Ka Bel's words were present, however; his prepared speech, "Neoliberalism and Labor," was read by KMU chair Elmer Labog.

Political repression laid its hand across the assembly. The keynote speech of the conference was to have been given by revolutionary poet Varavara Rao, but the Indian government denied him permission to travel. His speech was read by ICC member G.N. Saibaba of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of India.

Other speakers at the opening plenary included Wahu Kaara of the Kenya Debt-Relief Network, Dr. Irene Fernandez of the Malaysian women's rights organiza-

tion Tenaganita, Prof. Haluk Gerger of Turkey and Manolis Arrkolakis of the Committee Against Military Bases in Greece. Fernandez faces a

year in prison for "publishing false news." Gerger has been imprisoned for defending the rights of Kurdish people in Turkey.

Workshops focused on 18 concerns, including war, labor, national oppression, women's oppression, lesbian, gay, bi and transgender oppression, Indigenous struggles, migration, medical care, youth, education and the environment.

The workshops formulated resolutions in solidarity with the resistance of oppressed people from Iraq to Indonesia, from Palestine to the Philippines, including people of color inside the United States. The assembly also voted to launch a campaign against forced displacement, from Nandigram, India, to New Orleans, La.

The general declaration of the assembly, adopted by the final plenary, said, "Today, the world monopoly capitalist system is caught up in one of its biggest crises since the Great Depression. This is principally due to the unraveling of the imperialist



policies of 'neoliberal globalization' and 'global war on terror.' The U.S., which is the core of the system, is afflicted by a grave economic and financial crisis and is generating waves of economic and social ruin in all imperialist countries, in the largest so-called emerging markets, and worse than ever before in the general ruin of semi-colonies and dependent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"At the base of this global crisis is the crisis of overproduction in the real economy. New technology has raised higher the social character of production but has also increased the private monopoly character of appropriation. 'Neoliberal globalization' has accelerated the concentration and centralization of capital in the U.S. and a handful of monopoly capitalist countries through the denationalization of the economies of the less-developed countries, liberalization of investments and trade, privatization of public assets

and deregulation at the expense of the social rights of working people, women, children and the environment."

It pointed out that while "3 billion people ... struggle to survive on \$2 or less a day ... 750 million people are without jobs worldwide" and "nearly a billion people are undernourished, most of whom are in Asia, Africa and Latin America but also including some tens of millions in the industrialized countries ... the richest 2 percent of adults worldwide own more than half of global wealth, while the poorest 50 percent own barely 1 percent."

It said, "In the face of the intensified exploitation and oppression by the imperialists and their reactionary puppets, the people have intensified their resistance." It pointed to strikes and protests in the U.S. and Europe, peoples' resistance and wars of national liberation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Lebanon, and revolutionary movements in Nepal, India, Turkey, Colombia and the Philippines.

It concluded, "The daily worsening conditions of oppression and exploitation require the ILPS to intensify its efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the people in their millions in building a new and better world of greater freedom, development, social justice and global peace."

The assembly opened and closed with the singing of the ILPS hymn. It was followed by a lively cultural night at which delegates performed songs and dances from many countries. □

## Latin@ immigrants in the U.S.

*Continued from page 7*

U.S.—specifically Mexican immigrants, who are the largest percentage—are threatening the very fabric of his society.

This is what Huntington thinks of them: "The persistent inflow of Hispanic immigrants threatens to divide the United States into two peoples, two cultures, and two languages. Unlike past immigrant groups, Mexicans and other Latin@s have not assimilated into mainstream U.S. culture, forming instead their own political and linguistic enclaves—from Los Angeles to Miami."

Mexican migration is different for several reasons, Huntington notes. One is that the U.S. and Mexico share a border. "No other First World country has such an extensive frontier with a Third World country. No other immigrant group in U.S. history has asserted a historical claim to U.S. territory," he moans.

Lastly, Huntington warns, "The U.S. ignores this challenge at its peril."

Ignore it; it did not. Every immigration policy that has emerged in the last three years has flowed from this kind of thinking.

We must ask Huntington: Who is cutting his lawn? Who is delivering his food? Who is packing the meat that arrives on his dinner plate every night? Who is it who is working in the most dangerous industries of all? And who is dying for it?

The gap between Huntington's views of Latin@ immigrants and the reality of their daily lives is so wide an ocean could not fill it.

Just a month before Huntington wrote this alarming piece, the Associated Press reported that one Mexican worker a day dies at a workplace in this country. One worker a day!

"A Mexican worker is four times more likely to die on the job than the average U.S.-born worker," it reported. "These accidental deaths are almost always preventable and often gruesome: Workers are impaled, shredded in machinery, buried alive. Some are 15 years old." Bad conditions were so widespread that the AP described the situation as an epidemic.

Since these articles have been published, conditions for Latin@ immigrants have only deteriorated. For the approximate 12 million undocumented in the U.S., life has become a living hell. Some 1.8 million are children who live in fear of seeing their parents shackled and deported.

Despite a national movement of immigrants and activists who work tirelessly to shed light on this situation, the Bush administration, Congress, the right wing and the corporations have stepped up their war of terror, just like in Iraq.

Congress has refused to pass humane pro-immigrant legislation. Yet immigration policy is being implemented every day. The stalemate in Washington gave a green light to local and state governments to enforce immigration policy on their own. This meant that the most reactionary, racist and anti-immigrant forces in local governments were given the power to enforce immigration policy. These local and state policies have been matched with a massive sweep of raids and deportations carried out by ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, now a division of the dreaded Department of Homeland Security.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in 2007 over 1,200 immigration bills had been submitted by local lawmakers. At the same time, right-wing anti-immigrant groups grew by 600

percent. In 2005, there were fewer than 40; today there are more than 800 such groups! These include the Minutemen, Numbers Project and others.

What has this meant on a daily basis for Latin@ immigrants?

It means that Latin@s live in fear while working, while walking, while driving, at home, in the store, in the park, at the beach, while waiting at a corner to hopefully be picked up for work.

Because at any time in any place ICE or the police can stop you just for looking Latin@ to check your papers. Building codes in heavily Latin@ neighborhoods are being scrutinized under a microscope that opens the way for Gestapo-like thugs to break in. Some workers obsess about their cars and fanatically check taillights or registration in fear of being stopped for a minor traffic violation that will result in deportation. Some workers commit suicide.

There has been a 35 percent rise in hate crimes between 2003 and 2006 reported by the FBI.

It all has a racist message: Latin@s go home. In Merrimack, N.H., city legislators tried to pass an ordinance where only nearby residents could use the beach when too many Latin@s were coming from other areas to enjoy themselves in the sun.

In May, in one of the largest raids ever in Postville, Iowa, ICE raided a meatpacking plant employing a new tactic. Two hundred seventy immigrants, most from Guatemala, were arrested. Their crime? Working! They were arrested for having false documents, meaning that they were treated as criminals, not as undocumented immigrants, which is a civil violation.

In all, almost 300,000 workers were deported last year, including self-

*Continued on page 9*



# U.S. moves threaten turmoil inside Pakistan

By John Catalinotto

“I think possibly we’ve reached a turning point,” said Mustafa Alani, the director of security and terrorism studies at the Dubai-based Gulf Research Center. “Insurgents now are more active, more organized, and the political environment, whether in Pakistan or Afghanistan, favors insurgent activities.” (AP, June 30)

If Alani’s assessment is accurate, it means that Washington’s aggression in the entire region now threatens to spread conflict to another country, this one with a population estimated at 170 million. Far from bringing democracy, development and progress to Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. intervention has brought war, chaos and inter-ethnic fighting, and it has aroused anti-imperialist resistance. The same can be expected for Pakistan.

For the past two months, more occupation troops have died in Afghanistan than in Iraq. Pakistan is currently the supply route from the Indian Ocean to the 60,000 U.S./NATO forces in Afghanistan. These war supplies, whose route runs through the border regions of Pakistan, are obviously legitimate targets for the Afghan resistance.

For these reasons alone, Alani’s comment must be taken seriously. A major background article in the June 30 New York Times—based on off-the-record interviews with many top U.S. officials in the region—reinforces the idea that Pakistan itself is a crisis area, that the war is spreading there from Afghanistan, and that even more direct U.S. intervention is in the works.

U.S. officials in Afghanistan also say the Pakistani border regions are a base area for the Taliban, which is what Washington calls all factions of the Afghan resistance movement, and for Al Qaeda. The 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan allegedly drove Al Qaeda leaders into the mountains

on the border with Pakistan. Since the spring of 2002, Washington has demanded that Pakistan allow U.S. Special Forces to operate from bases inside Pakistan.

According to the Times, despite pressure from President George Bush, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf only agreed to allow certain U.S. Special Forces to accompany Pakistani troops. By 2003, complaints from the local Pakistanis ended this arrangement.

People of the Pashtun ethnic group live on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border, which is an arbitrary line imposed by the British Empire in the 19th century. People on both sides are hostile to U.S. occupation.

## U.S. bombs Pakistani army unit

The failure to crush the resistance forces in Pakistan’s so-called “tribal regions” has led to U.S. criticism of the Pakistani army. According to the Times, there were even angry arguments between the CIA bureaus in Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital, in Islamabad, Pakistan’s capital, and in Virginia. That officials discussed these problems with the media indicates the depth of the problems.

## As DPRK disables its nuclear reactor

# Will Washington live up to its agreement?

By Deirdre Griswold

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea took a dramatic step on June 27 to prove conclusively to the world that it was disabling its technology for making nuclear weapons. As representatives of the international media recorded the event, it blew up the cooling tower at its Yongbyon reactor. The reactor had been shut down and sealed since July 15 of last

It is the result of the capitalist system, a system that is in deep and profound crisis. Just like the ruling class cannot stop the resistance of the Iraqi people, it cannot stop the flow of humanity fighting against desperate conditions around the globe. It is a crisis where the very goods it produces cannot be bought by the very labor that produces them.

It must count on racism to divide a multinational working class so their anger and energy can be turned on one another instead of against the capitalist class.

What is the solution to this critical situation? It is what we are doing right here at this conference. Creating unity and action to build a powerful worldwide movement, which is desperately needed.

In the U.S. the immigrant rights movement must have confidence that there is power in the people. Legalization and full rights for immigrant workers will come from our struggle in the streets.

But it cannot advance without building the necessary connections with other struggles—at home and abroad. That means solidarity: with Katrina survivors, with American Axle workers, with the movements against the war, racism, sexism, and lesbian/gay/bi/trans oppression and for the rights of U.S. political prisoners. And with the family of Sean Bell, who was coldly gunned down by the New York police, just like Amadou Diallo, an African migrant.

As militant labor activists say again and again: an injury to one is an injury to all. In the seeds of our struggle is the foundation to build a world with no borders, a world free of exploitation and war. We can do it. □

The Pakistani army points to its loss of 1,000 troops fighting in the tribal regions, double the losses of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, as proof it is sharing in the “war on terror.” Despite these losses, on June 11, U.S. forces acting from Afghan bases bombed a unit of the Pakistani army, killing one officer and 12 soldiers. Many Pakistanis believe this bombing was no accident, just part of U.S. pressure on the Pakistan government to step up its intervention.

As June ended, there have even been reports in the corporate media that “Taliban forces” have surrounded Peshawar, a city of 3 million people only 90 miles from Islamabad. According to these reports, “Many of the rich have fled their mansions and left for Dubai. Middle-class families are packing for other places in Pakistan, and the poor are vulnerable to the militants’ entreaties.” (New York Times, June 28) Though it uses distorted language, this article indicates that poor people around Peshawar are supporting the resistance.

The current U.S. push to pressure the Pakistani army to attack in the border regions and to allow more direct U.S. inter-

year.

This now puts the ball in the U.S. court. Washington can no longer claim that the DPRK is secretly producing nuclear material. Such claims in the past have been used to delay implementing an agreement arrived at last year in six-party talks held in Beijing.

Under the agreement, the U.S. is supposed to lift sanctions it had unilaterally imposed on the socialist north of Korea and help provide the country with fuel oil. The sanctions were imposed after George W. Bush placed the DPRK within his imagined “axis of evil,” along with Iran and Iraq, and declared it a “terrorist” nation.

The Bush administration has never called Israel, Pakistan or India “terrorist” for developing nuclear weapons. Nor have any leaders of U.S. imperialism ever applied the label to themselves, even though the U.S. is the only country to have ever dropped atomic bombs on civilians, killing hundreds of thousands of Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 with just two bombs.

The corporate mass media in the U.S., following the lead of the foreign policy establishment, have treated the DPRK’s decision to construct a nuclear shield, even a small one, as irrational and “paranoid.” They seldom bring up the fact that the DPRK is under constant threat from the Pentagon.

According to an assessment entitled “U.S. nuclear forces, 2008” in the March/April Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, the Pentagon last year “restarted small-scale production of nuclear weapons for the first time in 15 years,” even though it still had in its stockpiles more than 5,400 nuclear warheads left over from the Cold War.

The majority of these weapons are strategic—that is, they are for offensive purposes and can be delivered to targets around the world by missiles, submarines and long-range bombers.

The Pentagon’s operational plans, explained the article, include “executable, scenario-based strike operations against regional states, including North Korea and Iran.” In other words, the DPRK was

vention threatens to destabilize Pakistan. The new Pakistan parliament elected this year had attempted, with some success, to sign a peace agreement with forces in the border regions. The army had pulled back from positions in this territory, and both sides had exchanged prisoners.

The U.S. and NATO opposed this agreement, arguing that it would allow pro-Taliban forces to carry out attacks against the “coalition” forces inside Afghanistan.

On June 30, as Pakistani forces entered a border area, an explosion destroyed the house of a Pakistani leader of the armed struggle, killing some residents. Witnesses say this attack came from rockets inside Afghanistan. A pro-Taliban leader told Samma TV that the peace agreement would be voided and that his fighters would carry the fighting to urban areas in Pakistan.

If Washington succeeds in sabotaging the peace agreement, it will mean increased turmoil and suffering for the people of Pakistan. Whether this turmoil allows the Pentagon to capture or kill some of its supposed enemies in the border areas, or further extends Washington’s Iraq and Afghanistan debacles, is still to be seen. □

and continues to be an explicit target of the world’s most powerful military, which today is carrying out brutal, aggressive wars of occupation in several countries.

The U.S. Navy has been moving nuclear-powered, ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) into the Pacific.

“Since 2002,” says the Bulletin article, “the Navy has transferred five SSBNs from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a reorientation of the sea-based deterrent force’s focus to increase coverage of targets in China, according to Navy officials. (The SSBNs also target Russia and North Korea.)

“More than 60 percent of all U.S. SSBN deterrent patrols now take place in the Pacific, compared to an average of only 15 percent during the 1980s.”

Yet Washington had the gall to impose heavy economic sanctions on the DPRK when, after years of U.S. threats, it announced it had developed nuclear weapons. According to a declaration it filed with the head of the six-party talks, the DPRK, before dismantling its reactor, had produced about 90 pounds of plutonium, which is “enough to construct at least a half-dozen nuclear bombs and is in line with U.S. intelligence estimates.” (AP, June 27) Six bombs—when the U.S. has 5,400!

After the DPRK’s decisive dismantling of its Yongyon reactor, Bush announced he was removing the country from his “terrorist” list and dropping some of the sanctions. That brought a barrage from John Bolton, an unabashed warmonger who until recently was Bush’s ambassador to the United Nations. He called the action “shameful,” declaring, “This represents the final collapse of Bush’s foreign policy.” The rightwinger Bush, trying to placate the even more rabid right, stressed that his action was largely “symbolic” and would have little impact, since many other sanctions have long been in place against the DPRK.

Congress has mandated that the White House wait 45 days before living up to its end of the agreement by removing the DPRK from Bush’s “terrorist” list. In that period, progressives must be vigilant against new excuses and provocations from Washington. □

deportation.

Detentions of immigrants have become a horror story. Over 60 immigrants have died while in detention. That number may be low, but it is 60 too many, and they have died horribly. They died when their heart or blood pressure medicine was denied. They died like animals on the floor in a sickening violation of human rights.

This is why even a mouthpiece of the ruling class, the New York Times has bemoaned this dire situation. What is behind the war on Latino immigrants?

**1) Racism.** The fact of “the browning of America” frightens many.

**2) The capitalist economic crisis.** Immigrants have historically been an expendable source of cheap labor in the U.S. Welcome one minute, unwelcome the next. And today, the U.S. is reeling from an economic crisis that has only just begun. They do not want to deport 12 million. The capitalists only want them in the shadows, unorganized and frightened.

**3) The imperialist forces of globalization.** Around the world, the masses of humanity are fighting back against imperialist policies. Struggles against NAFTA and other World Bank/IMF policies are escalating at the same time that these policies force people to leave their home countries.

The anti-immigrant hysteria is a worldwide phenomena that can be seen in all the developed capitalist countries. Why is this an international phenomenon? Because there is a cross-border flow of migrant labor that today has reached more than 200 million people around the world. It is a wave of movable labor that has reached epic proportions.





# Be in the streets on Aug. 2

On June 26, the Stop War on Iran Campaign initiated an emergency call to action to oppose a war on Iran on the weekend of Aug. 2 and 3. A major march is being planned Aug. 2 in New York. Demonstrators will assemble at 12 noon in Times Square at 43rd Street and Broadway. Other places, inside the U.S. and worldwide, are organizing local actions.

This mobilization could not have come at a more critical juncture as the warmongering Bush administration, the Pentagon and their puppet Israel are setting the stage for this unbridled attack on yet another sovereign country.

Investigative reporter Seymour Hersch

wrote in the July 7 New Yorker that the U.S. government has funded a \$400 million covert operation involving anti-Iranian groupings with the aim of destabilizing the Tehran government.

This criminal act is a violation of international law that should be protested by every activist, revolutionary and worker regardless of whether one agrees with the policies of the Iranian government or not. U.S. imperialism is the enemy, not Iran.

It is in this spirit that the managing editors wholeheartedly support the Aug. 2-3 mobilization. Below are excerpts from the call. Go to [www.StopWarOnIran.org](http://www.StopWarOnIran.org) to read the entire call and to find out how to get involved.

## The U.S. occupation of Iraq & Afghanistan is hated by the people there.

These wars have no support at home and are ruining the domestic economy. Instead of pulling out, the Bush administration is preparing for still another war—this time against Iran. This must be stopped!

On June 4, George Bush, with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at his side, called Iran a “threat to peace.” Two days before, acting as a proxy for the Pentagon, Israel used advanced U.S. fighter planes to conduct massive air maneuvers, which the media called a “dress rehearsal” for an attack on Iran’s nuclear facility. Under pressure from the U.S., the European Union announced sanctions against Iran on June 23. A bill is before Congress for further U.S. sanctions on Iran and even a blockade of Iran.

Iran as a “nuclear threat” is as much a hoax as Bush’s claim of “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq used to justify the war there. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which inspects Iran’s nuclear facilities, says it has no weapons program and is developing nuclear power for the days when its oil runs out. Even Washington’s 16 top spy agencies issued a joint statement that said Iran does not have nuclear weapons technology!

U.S. and Israel are the real nuclear danger. The Pentagon has a huge, nuclear-capable naval armada in the Persian/Arabian Gulf, with guns aimed at Iran. Israel, the Pentagon’s proxy force in the Middle East, has up to 200 nuclear warheads and has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iran did sign it.

While billions of dollars go to war, at home the unemployment rate had the biggest spike in 23 years. Home foreclosures and evictions are increasing; fuel and food prices are through the roof. While the situation is growing dire for many, Washington’s cuts to domestic programs continue. A new U.S. war will bring only more suffering.

While the summer is a difficult time to call protests, the August recess of Congress gives the White House an opportunity for unopposed aggression against Iran. We must not let this happen! From the anti-war movement and all movements for social change, to religious and grassroots organizations, unions and schools, let us join forces to demand “No war on Iran, U.S. out of Iraq, Money for human needs not war!”

# Women workers in ICE raid

Continued from page 6

Of the 166 arrested, 20 were released because they were born here or were legal residents. Of the remaining 146 detained, 73 were released for medical reasons, including 10 who were pregnant, or because they were sole care-providers of children. That left 73 detained; only three were men.

Many experts say the large number of undocumented women is a consequence of heightened security on the border, which has made it harder for men to return home frequently and maintain a family.

Immigration activists say the profile of the undocumented worker is changing as more women come north for economic reasons, either to join a spouse or just on their own. “What we are seeing now—and it showed up in this raid—is

that immigrants can’t go back and forth,” said Nestor Rodriguez, an immigration expert at the University of Houston. “It’s because visas are impossible to get for some people, and it’s dangerous to cross, so families are developing here.”

Researchers with the Greater Houston Partnership estimate 420,000 undocumented immigrants live in the greater Houston metropolitan region. The Chamber of Commerce research estimates that there are 174,182 men and 74,995 women working in the area. These workers make up a tenth of the local workforce.

Another demonstration is planned in Houston the week of June 30 against Border Watch, which is threatening immigrant workers gathering on corners looking for jobs. □



Left to right: Panelists Donna DeWitt, Larry Holmes, Fred Mason, June 28.

WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

# Anti-war activists meet in Cleveland

Larry Holmes, national coordinator of the Troops Out Now Coalition, was among the speakers at a plenary session June 28 at the National Assembly to End the Iraq War and Occupation. The conference in Cleveland drew approximately 400 anti-war activists and major leaders of the anti-war movement. Holmes’ talk focused on linking the anti-war movement to the growing economic crisis.

Other speakers included Clarence Thomas of the ILWU Local 10 Executive Board and a leader of the Port Workers May Day Organizing Committee; Jonathan Hutto, an anti-war GI and co-founder of the Appeal for Redress; Leslie Cagan, United for Peace and Justice; Brian Becker, ANSWER Coalition; Donna DeWitt, president of the South Carolina

AFL-CIO; Fred Mason, president of Maryland and DC AFL-CIO; Colia Clark, NY Power to the People Committee; and Lynne Stewart and Marilyn Levin of the Middle East Crisis Committee. The conference was coordinated by Jerry Gordon of US Labor Against the War and Jeff Mackler. The assembly focused on proposals for building unity for major anti-war demonstrations next spring.

After the conference ended June 29, TONC sponsored a meeting entitled “Obama: A Challenge to the Movement.” More than 50 community and anti-war activists attended. Larry Holmes, Clarence Thomas and Larry Hales of the youth group Fight Imperialism, Stand Together made opening points in a discussion that lasted about two hours.

—Sara Flounders

# Iraq veteran faces deportation, wins support

## Special to Workers World

The Canadian government is facing a surge of pressure and protest by supporters of U.S. war resisters in Canada as it moves to deport the resisters, even after a majority vote in Parliament that it “should immediately cease any removal or deportation actions.” The pressure and protest campaign is having an impact: The first resister the Canadian government ordered to leave, Corey Glass, saw his deadline to leave extended from June 12 to July 9. Since then Glass and others facing deportation have publicly announced plans to stay, with widespread Canadian support.

Supporters across Canada and the U.S. have sent thousands of letters to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (email [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)) and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Diane Finley (email [finley.d@parl.gc.ca](mailto:finley.d@parl.gc.ca)) demanding that the resisters be allowed to stay. In the U.S. the campaign is led by Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Courage to Resist and Project Safe Haven.

Gerry Condon of Project Safe Haven noted that Amnesty International has also weighed in, stating that Corey Glass should be considered a conscientious objector and that if he were returned to the U.S. to be court-martialed and imprisoned, AI would consider him a prisoner of conscience.

Veterans for Peace is encouraging its 7,000 members to contact the Canadian government directly through a July 2 International Phone-In to Canadian Immigration Minister Finley. The War Resisters Support Campaign, based in Toronto and Vancouver, expects thousands of calls from both Canada and the U.S. on July 2. (See <http://resisters.ca/actions.html>.)

In addition, vigils and delegations to Canadian consular offices throughout the U.S. are planned on July 9, led by VFP, Courage to Resist and Project Safe Haven.

Courage to Resist is also spearheading a letter-writing campaign. Find sample letters and contact information at [www.couragetoresist.org/canada](http://www.couragetoresist.org/canada).

Camilo Mejia, national chairperson of Iraq Veterans Against the War, sent a powerful open letter to Canada supporting the resisters. He wrote on behalf of IVAW that “it is because of what we saw and experienced [in Iraq] that we support our brothers and sisters seeking a new home in Canada. They are avoiding participation in a criminal, illegal and immoral occupation so that other families can live in peace in their own land. They are doing the right thing!”

The letter concluded: “We call upon the Canadian government to implement the motion stopping all deportations of U.S. war resisters and allowing them to stay in Canada, not only because it is your duty to the people you represent to heed to their will, but also because it is a clear statement of support and solidarity for the people of Iraq.”

In addition to the Parliamentary resolution, a poll in early June by Canada AM on Canadian television recorded that 63 percent of Canadians favor letting U.S. war resisters stay.

The struggle to make Canada a sanctuary for war resisters takes on greater importance as more soldiers refuse to return to Iraq. The increasing support for resisters demonstrates widespread opposition to the war and determination to stop it the simplest way: by helping the troops refuse to fight. □

## MARKET ELECTIONS

### How Democracy Serves the Rich

By Vince Copeland

Every four years, big money chooses the presidential candidates.

Who has been excluded from voting? How were electoral politics used to betray Black freedom after the Civil War?

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WW in 1976

Soweto: turning point in S. Africa freedom struggle

We reprint this article from the June 25, 1976, issue of Workers World as part of our archival series. The article was written by Sharon Shelton.

New York City, June 23—After years of living under the brutal yoke of apartheid rule, the people of Azania (South Africa) have risen up against their oppressors in what is surely a major turning point in the struggle for freedom in southern Africa.

The historic rebellion erupted in the impoverished Black township of Soweto last Wednesday when South African Premier John Vorster’s fascist police began shooting pointblank into a crowd of 10,000 students protesting a law requiring they take courses in Afrikaans, the language spoken by the South African white minority.

By week’s end, the uprising had quickly swept through other Black urban areas. So far, by official count, at least 140 Africans, mostly children, have been killed and over 1,100 injured by apartheid sharpshooters. Over 900 protesters have been arrested.

The Vorster regime has now turned a new weapon against the Black townships: starvation. All food supplies to the areas of rebellion have been cut off.

Originally organized as peaceful movement

Wednesday’s demonstration was originally organized as a peaceful march to be followed by a rally in Soweto’s Orlando Stadium. Before the marchers reached the stadium, however, they were met by a contingent of police who demanded they disperse, lobbing teargas into the crowd.

Although Vorster’s Gestapo cops claim they did not shoot to kill until the students began throwing rocks, an on-the-scene reporter for the Johannesburg Star has vowed he saw the police initiate even the stone throwing.

The youths responded to the vicious police attack, however, with a fury kindled by years of oppression. They overturned police cars, burned government and other buildings symbolizing apartheid, and defended themselves with their fists, stones and sticks.

Killed for “crime” of not stopping his car

As the protests spread to at least seven other segregated townships, the police rampaged, using attack dogs, army helicopters, tear gas, machine guns, grenade launchers and automatic rifles in their random attacks on any unarmed Black people who happened to be in their path. One man, according to Saturday’s issue of the New York Times, was shot to death after “his car failed to halt on command” at a police roadblock.

In the township of Mabopane, the demonstration began after 170 Black workers at the Klipgat waterworks struck for higher wages. In Pretoria, African Chrysler workers staged a walkout after the plant halted the supplementary breakfasts that had been instituted over the weekend when food supplies to the townships were cut off.

According to yesterday’s New York Times, a Black man took the rebellion directly to the forbidden streets of Johannesburg when he attacked three people with an ax, shouting “Freedom for Africa!” He was later shot.

Also in Johannesburg there were confrontations between racist troopers and Africans when a group of Soweto residents

in the bus station trying to get transportation home were charged by club-wielding cops.

There also have been demonstrations at the University of Zululand at Empangeni in Natal province and at the University of the North at Turloop near Petersburg. Police attacked both demonstrations, composed of Black students chanting “Power!”

In a hopeful show of solidarity rare for South Africa, 200 white students at the University of the Witwaterstrand organized an action to protest the police rampage in Soweto and other Black townships.

White students show solidarity

Demonstrators carried replicas of coffins and signs reading, “Why shoot children—they are the future?” According to the New York Times, “White and Black bystanders joined them as they passed, swelling their numbers to more than 1,000 by the time they approached the downtown area.” The solidarity protest was later attacked by the police with clubs. White students at the University of the Cape also held demonstrations against the killings of the Black school children.

The Vorster regime’s response to the viciousness of its killer cops has been typically calloused. Today the hated James T. Kruger, who as Minister of “Justice” gave the cops their orders, was quoted in the Times as describing the ongoing police terror in African areas as “mopping-up operations.” He defended the mass shootings by casually suggesting other methods would have proved “ineffective.”

Vorster himself, a pro-Nazi activist during World War II, went on television and radio warning his regime “would not be intimidated” and preaching “law and order.” Vorster’s warning, coming only days before his scheduled meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, underscores the fact that the U.S. has all along propped up the apartheid regime. Although Kissinger has hypocritically stated he “regrets” what has happened in South Africa, he has refused to call off the talks, which are aimed at safeguarding U.S.

Zimbabwe

Continued from page 1

one key component of the efforts aimed at regime change is the spreading of false information in the press both to overemphasize the importance and significance of the opposition forces and to undercut the authority and legitimacy of the ZANU-PF government.

During the lead-up to the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, beginning in 2001 and again from 2002 to 2003, a similar program was instituted which demonized the Taliban, al-Qaeda and the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party of Iraq. The next steps were designed to convince people in the U.S. and around the world that it was in their best interests to support an invasion and occupation of these foreign states.

The U.S., Britain and EU are working toward these ends in Zimbabwe, and their aims have implications for the entire region of southern Africa and throughout the continent as a whole. In the geopolitical areas where the U.S. and other imperialist states have intervened, the overall conditions for the masses have worsened. In Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia, the U.S. military involvement in these nations has created far more difficulties than what existed before. □

interest in southern Africa, especially after the recent people’s victory in Angola.

U.S. vested interest in apartheid

Currently over 300 U.S. corporations operate within South Africa. Big U.S. corporations, lured by the starvation wages Black workers are paid, have invested over \$1 billion in the apartheid-ruled country. Firms like Chrysler, Caterpillar, Firestone, Ford, General Electric, General Motors, Goodyear, IBM, IT&T, Mobil Oil and Caltrex have a vested interest in apartheid-as-usual.

Of course, the Pretoria government is also important to the U.S. as a battering ram against People’s Angola (as was illustrated by South Africa’s invasion on behalf of U.S. imperialism of that newly independent country last November) as well as against the Namibian, Zimbabwean and Azanian revolutions.

Massacre reminiscent of Sharpeville

In the vehemence with which Vorster’s fascist police have indiscriminately fired upon unarmed Africans, this week’s historic uprising is reminiscent of the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 when over 70 peaceful protesters against the hated passbook system were mercilessly shot down.

The difference between today and Sharpeville, however, is that the intervening years of continuous brutal racism, coupled with inspiring people’s victories elsewhere in Africa, have made apartheid intolerable to its victims. Now, the oppressed African masses, though unarmed, are turning a new page in the history of southern Africa by their proven fierce determination to fight back by any means necessary until the brutal system of apartheid is destroyed and the imperialist profiteers are banished from their soil. □



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Left to right: Nieves Ayress, G1, Rodstarz, Miya, Victor Toro and Teresa Gutierrez.

On centennial of his birth Forum honors Salvador Allende

On Sept. 11, 1973, a bloody Nixon-Kissinger-CIA-orchestrated coup in Chile toppled President Salvador Allende’s democratically elected government. On this day, Allende died in the Governmental Palace (La Moneda), heroically resisting the military attacks carried out by Chilean ground and air troops. Following the massacre of tens of thousands of revolutionaries and workers, the U.S. puppet and fascist Gen. Augusto Pinochet was ushered into power for the next three decades. The Allende government’s defeat not only set back the Chilean workers and peasants but the anti-imperialist struggle throughout Latin America.

Speakers at a June 28 forum in New York City reiterated the fact that out of the ashes of a tragic development arise new opportunities for struggle and ultimate victory for the workers and oppressed. This event was a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of President Allende’s birth and his living legacy today, and included a two-hour documentary film showing the events leading up to the overthrow of the Allende government.

Endorsers of this program, held at the Solidarity Center, included La Peña Movement of the Bronx, the Miguel Enriquez Collective, Bolivarian Circle Alberto Lovera-NY and the International Action Center.

Chilean activist Nieves Ayres from La Peña co-chaired the meeting, attended mainly by community and political activists from Latin America. Ayres is a for-

mer political prisoner, one of thousands of activists tortured when Pinochet came to power. She had been a member of Allende’s defense squads. The poet Miya, an organizer of Fight Imperialism-Stand Together (FIST) and Women’s Fightback Network in Boston, also co-chaired and read one of her moving poems.

Victor Toro Ramirez, one of the survivors and founders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)—which helped lead the resistance against the coup—spoke passionately about labor and student struggles in Chile today. Toro currently faces deportation by the U.S. government to Chile, now governed by its first woman president, Michelle Bachelet.

Teresa Gutierrez, a co-director of the IAC, gave a solidarity message. G1 and Rodstarz, two of the three members of Rebel-Diaz—a popular hip-hop group based in the Bronx—had the audience on their feet and clapping with their revolutionary selections. These two young artists were physically attacked and arrested this past June 18 by the New York police when they came to the defense of an immigrant street vendor who was being harassed by the same police.

Police raided G1’s apartment on June 24 with no warrant. The Latino artists will hold a press conference on July 8 in the Bronx to denounce the bogus misdemeanor charges of assault and obstruction of justice against them. Go to www.rebeldiaz.com to find out more about this case.

—Report & photo by Monica Moorehead



# M★NDO OBRERO

**¡Proletarios y oprimidos de todos los países, uníos!**

## EDITORIAL

### Las Grandes Corporaciones Petroleras e Irak

#### *Pagando la cuenta*

#### PETRÓLEO, SANGRE Y GANANCIAS

La presidencia de Bush ha sido excelente en su extraordinaria habilidad de ser más arrogante y más descarada en lo que las otras administraciones presidenciales tratarían de cubrir con muchas hipocresías. No es que no tenga su parte de hipocresía y definitivamente ha mentido tanto como cualquiera de las otras administraciones en la historia de Estados Unidos, pero al final, la avaricia vence a todo lo demás.

Y así se nos dijo la semana pasada sin ningún titubeo o duda que la invasión criminal en Irak fue todo por... Petróleo.

No es que esto fuera una sorpresa. No para nosotr@s en este espacio editorial ni tampoco para 20 millones de personas en todas partes que se manifestaron durante los meses anteriores al 20 de marzo del 2003, con la consigna de “¡No más sangre por petróleo!”

Un su mayoría es la sangre iraquí la que se ha derramado. Pero también ha sido derramada por cinco años la sangre de un@s 4.100 jóvenes estadounidenses de la clase obrera que fueron engañad@s para que actuaran como carnada para una invasión opresiva e ilegal, más decenas de miles de herid@s y el 30 de junio la verdadera finalidad de toda esta sangre derramada sería anunciada.

Las cuatro compañías más grandes que fueron expulsadas por la revolución de Irak en 1972—Exxon Mobil, Shell, Total y BP—están supuestamente a punto de re ingresar a Irak para continuar con la explotación de su petróleo y de su gente. Los nuevos contratos petroleros también incluyen a Chevron.

Así que los monopolios estadounidenses y británicos, incluyendo también la Total francesa, estarán de nuevo con su negocio—si nada los interrumpe en los próximos días. Como hay una resistencia activa en Irak, una interrupción es posible. Y el negocio del imperialismo estadounidense es hacer negocio, especialmente en petróleo y armas.

Manteniendo el carácter descarado de la pandilla de Bush, estas compañías entraron sin tener que pasar por la formalidad de competir por los contratos. ¿Recuerdan la reunión—la privada—entre el Vicepresidente Dick Cheney y los ejecutivos de las petroleras a comienzo de la administración de Bush? Quizá ahí fue cuando se hicieron las promesas.

Será interesante ver quién, entre los títeres políticos iraquíes, será el que sea fotografiado dándose la mano celebrando el trato donde se entrega la riqueza nacional de Irak. ¿O es que esto también se hará en privado?

#### El Congreso hace un trato

Y para no ser superado por la administración Bush en este tiempo de hacer tratos, el Congreso de Estados Unidos, con su estrecha mayoría Demócrata, también ha optado por la guerra.

Nosotr@s no estamos entre quienes dicen que no hay diferencia entre los partidos Demócrata y Republicano. Existen muchas diferencias, incluyendo los sectores de la sociedad estadounidense que forman su constituyente. Pero estamos clar@s que estos son dos partidos cuyo liderazgo nacional, ideología e historia les pone firmemente en la posición de defender los intereses del imperialismo estadounidense, incluyendo el hacer guerras de agresión en el extranjero.

Concedemos que estos días los Demócratas no están tan evidentes sobre esto. Así que cuando optan por apoyar nuevamente a la máquina de guerra, como lo hicieron los Demócratas de la Cámara de Representantes ayudando a aprobar la propuesta de ley de apropiación de \$162 billones para la guerra, buscan un pretexto.

Su pretexto fue una enmienda para pagos suplementarios del seguro de desempleo por 13 semanas adicionales para l@s trabajador@s desemplead@s por más de 26 semanas. También aprobaron una enmienda otorgando beneficios significativos a l@s veteran@s militares, incluyendo una versión del siglo XXI de la anti-gua ley de derechos para veteranos que permitió a tantos veteranos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial estudiar en la universidad. Y esto ocurrió al mismo tiempo en que el Congreso recortaba los fondos para los préstamos estudiantiles de jóvenes civiles.

En 2006 una mayoría de los Demócratas fueron elegid@s a la Cámara de Representantes porque mucha gente creyó que iban a acabar con la guerra en Irak y traer las tropas a casa. No tan obvios como l@s Republicanos, pero igualmente hipócritas, l@s líderes del Partido Demócrata seguramente han fracasado en cumplir con esa promesa.

La lección de todo esto es que es tiempo de que las decenas de millones de personas en los EEUU que están contra la guerra se despierten, cesen de esperar o depender de las elecciones o contar con polític@s de cualquiera de los dos partidos capitalistas, y vuelvan a las calles para luchar y terminar con las guerras en Irak y Afganistán, las amenazas contra Irán y la agresión en cualquier parte del mundo. □

## La UE se une a los EEUU atacando a inmigrantes

Por G. Dunkel

El 18 de junio, la Unión Europea adoptó una política común represiva frente a l@s trabajador@s indocumentad@s que sean aprehendidos por las autoridades. L@s arrestad@s pueden ser encarcelad@s hasta por 18 meses simplemente por no tener documentos legales, pueden ser detenid@s sin el correspondiente proceso jurídico, no se les será ofrecida asistencia legal gratis, y pueden ser deportad@s y excluidos de todos los países de la UE por espacio de cinco años.

El estado español estuvo entre los que encabezaban la campaña contra l@s trabajador@s indocumentad@s. Aproximadamente 2000 trabajador@s ya están retenid@s en centros de detención. Much@s inmigrantes latinoamerican@s en Europa van primero a España porque no existe la barrera del lenguaje. Millones de trabajador@s de África del norte y del sur del desierto de Sahara también migran a los países más ricos de la UE.

Desde que comenzaron a deteriorar las economías de sus países, y l@s trabajador@s con bajos salarios de los nuevos países miembros de la UE del Este de Europa—Polonia, Hungría, la República Checa, Estonia, Latvia, Lituania, y Eslovaquia—comenzaron a migrar al oeste por cientos de miles, los principales poderes imperialistas en Europa han promovido el veneno del racismo y la xenofobia.

Estas son las herramientas preferidas de los patronos para intimidar a l@s trabajador@s sin documentos y forzarles a trabajar clandestinamente por salarios mucho más bajos.

Líderes progresistas latinoamericanos reaccionaron airadamente a la nueva regulación. El presidente boliviano Evo Morales denunció la decisión de la UE antes de que fuera aprobada, y luego se unió el Presidente Hugo Chávez de Venezuela, el presidente electo paraguayo, Fernando Lugo, el ex presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro, el canciller brasileño, Celso Amorim, el presidente de Ecuador, Rafael Correa, al igual que el jefe de la Organización de Estados Americanos.

“Si algún país europeo comienza a aplicar esta ley,” dijo Chávez, “y encarcela a colombianos, paraguayos, ecuatorianos, bolivianos . . . entonces vamos a revisar las inversiones que ellos tienen aquí para que nosotros también apliquemos un mandato de retorno. ¡Devolvamos sus inversiones!”

Morales señaló en el periódico British Guardian del 16 de junio que “la directiva de retorno ... impone términos severos de detención y deportación de inmigrantes indocumentados, sin considerar el tiempo que han vivido en países europeos, su situación de trabajo, [o] sus relaciones familiares.”

Morales señaló las consecuencias económicas

de esta nueva política de la UE: “Para nosotros, nuestros emigrantes representan la ayuda para el desarrollo que los europeos no nos dan. . . . América Latina recibió, en 2006, la suma de \$68 mil millones enviado desde el extranjero, más que toda la inversión extranjera en nuestros países. Mi país, Bolivia, recibió más del 10 por ciento de su PNB en tales remesas.”

Él preguntó, “bajo la llamada ‘protección judicial’ estamos siendo presionados a desnacionalizar el agua, los hidrocarburos y la telecomunicación. ¿Dónde está la ‘protección judicial’ para nuestra gente buscando nuevos horizontes en Europa?”

Fidel Castro, en dos “Reflexiones” escritas el 20 y el 22 de junio, asoció las acciones de la UE a la política reaccionaria de Washington. En la primera, él escribió, “La desprestigiada forma de suspender las sanciones a Cuba que acaba de adoptar la Unión Europea el 19 de junio. . . No implica en lo absoluto consecuencia económica alguna para nuestro país. Por el contrario, las leyes extraterritoriales de Estados Unidos y, por lo tanto, su bloqueo económico y financiero continúan plenamente vigentes.

“Desde ahora deseo consignar mi desprecio por la enorme hipocresía que encierra tal decisión. Esto se hace aún más evidente cuando coincide con la brutal medida europea de expulsar a los inmigrantes no autorizados procedentes de los países latinoamericanos, en algunos de los cuales la población en su mayoría es de origen europeo.”

“Los traficantes de personas como los de drogas, que disponen a su antojo del mayor y más codiciado mercado del mundo, han puesto en riesgo la autoridad y la moral que necesita cualquier gobierno para dirigir el Estado, derramando sangre latinoamericana por todas partes, sin contar los que mueren por emigrar a través del humillante muro fronterizo sobre lo que fue territorio de México.”

“La crisis de los alimentos y de la energía, los cambios climáticos y la inflación acosan a las naciones. La impotencia política reina, la ignorancia y las ilusiones tienden a generalizarse.”

Castro también señaló que lo que impulsa a emigrar a la gente en América Latina es el hambre y la pobreza que los Estados Unidos y los países industriales de Europa del Oeste les imponen. (cubadebate.cu)

En España docenas de organizaciones de derechos humanos y otras organizaciones progresistas se han unido para tener manifestaciones o reuniones públicas el 21 de junio en cinco ciudades—Madrid, Málaga, Barcelona, Valencia y Tenerife—para oponerse a la nueva decisión represiva contra l@s inmigrantes. Gritaban la consigna “¡Ningún ser humano es ilegal!” y demandaban la clausura de los centros de detención. □

*Libertad para los cinco compatriotas cubanos que defendieron a su país del terrorismo y que ahora están presos en EE.UU. por evitar muertes en la isla.*

*Fernando González,  
Ramón Labañino,  
Antonio Guerrero,  
Gerardo Hernández  
y René González.*

